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The following is a summary of Soviet and KVP military activities observed prior to 8 October 1954:

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## A. Soviet Troop Dispositions, Movements and Exercises

1. Personnel Exchange Movement:

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The first recruits arrived on about 26 September. The arrival of recruits has been observed at numerous military posts. The first shipment with discharges went eastward via Kuestrin on 30 September.

3. First Guards Mechanized Army:

- a. Exercises: On 23 September, a shipment with a tank unit with ten T-34 tanks and ten SP guns passed through Elsterwerda. Troop movements took place in the Koenigsbrueck-Zeithain-Riesa area and on both sides of the Elbe near Muehlberg between 23 and 27 September. The shipment of a tank company from the direction of Leipzig toward Schwepnitz was observed on 27 November. On the same day, about 40 tanks were entrained at the Wuelknitz railroad station on the eastern edge of the Zeithain troop training grounds. Motor vehicle and tank numbers of all three divisions and of army units were observed in connection with all of the above movements. It is undetermined whether joint exercises or individual divisional exercises were taking place.

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- b. Dispositions and Movements: A tank regiment of the 11th Guards Tank Division returned to Installation 1602 in Meissen-Bohnitzsch between 24 and 30 September. The AAA regiment of the 11th Guards Tank Division and the army RL regiment were still stationed in Meissen. Rear details of the 1st Guards Tank Regiment of the 8th Guards Mechanized Division were still located in Borna on 2 October. Two shipments from Meissen, one from Dresden and one from Leisnig went to Wustrow between 1 and 3 October.

#### 4. Second Guards Mechanized Army:

- a. 9th Guards Tank Division: The bulk of the medium tank regiments of the division with more than 100 tanks were exercising in the Demmin area between 23 and 26 September. Elements of the 31st AAA Division, which went in one shipment from Velten to Demmin on 23 September and returned on 28 September, may have participated in this exercise. A heavy tank and SP regiment and artillery units which were observed north of Penzlin and west of Neustrelitz respectively may also have been involved.
- b. 12th Guards Tank Division: The 34th Guards Rifle Regiment from Drogen was probably involved in the exercise held by the division after 30 September.
- c. 1st Mechanized Division: On 22 September, during the final phase of the exercises of the 1st Mechanized Division, about 100 tanks took part in an attack which moved westward from the Bienenwalde-Zuehlen area in the East Section of the Schweinrich training grounds. The tank movement was preceded by a bombing attack. A tank unit went in one shipment from Doeberitz to Neustrelitz on 30 September.

#### 5. Third Guards Mechanized Army:

On 28 and 29 September, the wheeled elements of the 9th Mechanized Division returned to their posts after the termination of the division's exercise in the Jueterbog area. Eight shipments with approximately 100 tanks and engineer units of the 7th Guards Tank Division passed eastward through Magdeburg between 23 and 27 September. Motor columns enroute from Letzling Heath to Zerbst passed through Magdeburg on 24 September. Approximately 1500 troops returned to Installation 3401 in Rossau on 27 September. Two shipments went from Wustrow to Dessau on 30 September. The occupation of Installation 3241 in Kochstedt appeared to be increased.

#### 6. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army:

- a. Advance parties of the 71st Light Artillery Brigade arrived in Bernau on 7 October. Elements of the 63rd AAA Division returned in two shipments from Wustrow to Eberswalde on 3 and 4 October.
- b. 6th Guards Mechanized Division: The bulk of the division was in its quartering area prior to 8 October. Training at company and battalion level took place near the posts day and night. Engineer troops which had left Bernau on 13 September returned by rail on 4 October.
- c. 7th Guards Mechanized Division: On 19 and 20 September, five shipments coming from the direction of Frankfurt/Oder were unloaded in Spremberg, Doebern-Wolfshain and Neuhausen. Additional major troop contingents with tanks were allegedly detrained in this area. Between the evening of 23 September and 30 September, the bulk of the division returned by road and rail from the south to Frankfurt/Oder, Fuerstenwalde and Beeskow.<sup>1</sup>
- d. 10th Guards Tank Division: Until 5 October, this division was stationed in its winter quarters.
- e. 25th Tank Division: On and before 27 September, one shipment with details

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of the tank training battalion from Frenzlau was observed in Letzling Heath. On 3 October, the bulk of the division was still stationed at the Templin training grounds. On 1 October, Frenzlau was still lightly occupied.

f. 63rd AAA Division: On 3 and 4 October, elements of the division returned in two shipments from Wustrow to Eberswalde.

#### 7. Third Shock Army:

- a. Exercises of Reinforced IX Rifle Corps: From 25 to 28 September, track-laying elements and medium and heavy artillery arrived by rail, and wheeled elements of all units by road, at the Wiesenburger-Belzig-Brueck assembly area. The units were reinforced by elements of Army troops, of the 34th Artillery Brigade, of the 25th Guards Rocket-Launcher Brigade, of the 3rd Guards Anti-Tank Artillery Brigade, of the 4th Anti-Tank Artillery Brigade and of the 65th Mortar Brigade.<sup>2</sup> On 29 September, the exercise started to develop northwestward, with the first elements crossing the Elbe River at Burg-Neuderben, five kilometers north of Guesen, probably on 1 October. The sector under mock attack extended to Neuderben, Birkholz, Tangerhuetten and south of Gardelegen to the right, and to Burg, the area north of Colbitz and further westward to the left. On 3 October, the final phase consisted of a concentration in the Dolle area where major air force units were employed. Upon completion of the exercise on 4 October, the units were moved out by rail and road from the north sector, the Letzling Heath and Mahlwinkel areas. The railroad movements had not been completed on 6 October.
- b. Parallel Movements: The enemy party during the exercises was presumably located in the Elbe section near Burg-Bittkau. The participating units have not been identified, but may have included elements of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division and the 207th Rifle Division of the LXXIX Rifle Corps, as on 30 September all camps in Letzling Heath were found vacant, and rumor had it that units from Magdeburg were going to conduct retreat exercises, including a crossing of the Elbe River, prior to the end of September. Specifically 25 x T-34's were entrained at Magdeburg on 25 September; tanks assembled in the Buch area, south of Tangermunde, on 26 September; one day later, major elements of the 36th Pontoon Bridge Regiment of the GSFG moved by road from Magdeburg eastward, probably to the Elbe section mentioned above. On 3 September, the quarters of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division at Magdeburg and Hillersleben had been only partially occupied. On 12 September, four shipments, probably with elements of the engineer regiment at Bernburg, went from Bernburg to Altengrabow. Units returning to their posts included elements of the 207th Rifle Division, going to Stendal on 2 October; elements of the 19th Guards Mechanized Division and the 36th Pontoon Bridge Regiment, going to Magdeburg on 3 October, and two shipments with elements of the 136th Heavy Tank and SP Regiment, going from Haldensleben to Burg on 3 and 5 October.

#### 8. Eighth Guards Army:

- a. Dispositions: On 1 October, the bulk of the Army headquarters, with the AAA division, the signal regiment and the engineer battalion, was observed in Weimar. From 25 September to 1 October, the two artillery brigades were seen at their Altenburg stations. On 29 September, Gera and Plauen were still occupied to capacity. On 3 October, Jena was again occupied to capacity. On 6 October, the 76th Artillery Brigade was stationed in Magdeburg.
- b. Movements: On 1 October, four shipments, presumably carrying units of the 497th AAA Regiment, went from Wustrow to Rudolstadt. On about 28 September, tanks from Zeitz and Gera were engaged in several-day exercises at Forst Zeitz. On 27 and 28 September, elements of the 20th Guards Mechanized Division returned by road to Weimar. On 27 and 28 September, tank units moved from Lossa toward Weimar, and subsequently, the loading of three east-bound shipments with tank units of the 21st Guards Mechanized Division was observed at Weimar.<sup>3</sup> On 3 and 5 October, two tank shipments, presumably loaded with units of the 57th Guards Rifle Division, went from Eisenach eastward.

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9. Fourth Artillery Corps:

From 26 to 29 September, six or seven shipments with elements of the 6th Artillery Division went from Altengrabow to Rathenow. On 3 and 4 October, elements of the 25th Guards Rocket-Launcher Brigade, 48 mortars of the 65th Mortar Brigade and 52 field howitzers of the 18th Howitzer Brigade returned to Rathenow by road from the direction of the IX Rifle Corps training area at Tangermünde. The 6th Artillery Division, the 25th Guards Rocket-Launcher Brigade and the corps headquarters were back at their posts by 7 October. On 5 October, two shipments with elements of the 32nd AAA Division left Stendal towards Frankfurt/Oder.

10. GSFG Troops:

From 21 to 25 September, most units of the 56th Motor Transport Regiment were found at their posts, as indicated by the normal column movements. On 3 September, the engineer camp southeast of Rossau was occupied by fatigue details only.

## B. KVP Developments

1. Pasewalk Units:

In late September, the engineer battalion at Fuenfeichen underwent a several-day fall inspection by officers from the Northern Corps headquarters at Pasewalk. On 2 October, only maintenance service was observed, with some trucks standing on blocks. Up to 21 September, elements of the Pasewalk AAA regiment were probably stationed at the Zingst firing range.

2. Mechanized Division Eggesin:

Prior to 18 September, harvest work caused considerable interruptions in training. Between 20 and 25 September, units in the Karpin area were given a fall inspection by Major General Hermann Rentzsch. Tank units held practices in the Jaegerbrueck area until at least 28 September. After 22 September, artillery units were engaged in fall firing exercises. Other units were performing routine duties at their posts in late September.

3. Division Frenslau:

There were no exercises. From 20 September until early in October, all units were occupied with routine tasks at their posts. Additional recruits arrived.

4. Mechanized Division Dresden:

Between 27 September and 4 October, the bulk of the tank units moved from the Nochten-Weisswasser training area to Spremberg. On 28 September, elements of the 2nd Mechanized Regiment returned from Weisswasser to their Baerenstein post. On 29 September, other units returned from Weisswasser to Zittau or Loebau. Also on 29 September, troops probably belonging to the 1st Mechanized Regiment passed through Dresden on their way from Weisswasser to Frankenberg.

5. Anti-Aircraft Artillery Corps South:

From 5 to 17 and 17 to 29 September, elements of AAA units from the Erfurt, Halle and Dresden Division rotated to and from firing practices in the Zingst area.

6. Mechanized Division Potsdam:

During the fall inspection, all regimental headquarters participated in a command post exercise at the Klietz training grounds on 18 September. Between 23 and 27 September, major elements of the mechanized regiment and the tank regiment returned from the Klietz area to Oranienburg. On 27 and 28 September, three shipments

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carried other elements of the mechanized regiment and the tank regiment, including 30 tanks and at least ten field and anti-tank guns, from Granienburg to Kietz.

**7. Miscellaneous:**

Increased recruiting activity, designed to build reserve units, apparently continues. It includes a bonus offer to discharges with three years' service. A possible goal of 14,000 recruits by the end of the year has been set. KVP maneuvers scheduled for October were canceled by the Interior Ministry, probably for political or economic reasons such as the internal situation or the harvesting problem.

**Comments:**

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1. For exercises of the 7th Guards Mechanized Division in the Spremberg-Lieberose area from 20 to 23 September, without participation of the 10th Guards Tank Division,

3. This was probably the final phase of exercises conducted by the two mechanized divisions in the Weimar area. They may have practiced individually, or one division may have represented the enemy. So far, there have been no indications of exercises on corps or army level.

**Comment:** After completion of the fall exercises of the Third Shock Army, there have been no indications of similar maneuvers in other areas.

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